



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 12/19/2005

GAIN Report Number: GM5042

Germany

Poultry and Products

Avian Influenza Update: Free Range Chicken Allowed Outside Again

2005

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Report Highlights:

From October 22 through 15, 2005, the German government required all poultry be kept indoors or in special enclosed shelters to prevent a possible contraction of avian influenza from migratory birds. With the end of the migratory season this requirement has been lifted. A number of other preventive measures are still in place.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Berlin [GM1]
[GM]

From October 22 through December 15, 2005, the German government required all poultry to be kept indoors or in special enclosed shelters to prevent a possible contraction of avian influenza from migratory birds. With the end of the migratory season this requirement has been lifted, and as of December 16, poultry may again be kept outside of shelters and barns. However, a number of other preventive measures, are still in place. These include:

- Monitoring of wild ducks and geese.
- Feeding of poultry must occur at places where wild birds do not have access.
- Poultry may only be watered with approved water sources.
- Animal feed, bedding material, and other objects that domestic poultry comes in contact with, must be stored and made inaccessible to wild birds.
- Poultry markets, exhibitions, and the like are prohibited. However, under certain conditions the authority in charge may issue a special permit for such an event. These conditions include a clinical examination by a veterinarian not more than five days before the event.

The German Federal Research Institute for Animal Health (Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, FLI) continues to monitor the disease status in Germany and in the risk areas of Northern Africa, Romania, and the Crimea. Should the avian influenza risk still be prevalent by the time the migratory birds fly back over Germany, the requirement to keep all poultry inside is likely to be reinstated. The beginning of the bird migration to summer destinations varies from year to year, but may begin as early as the middle of February.

In May 2003, the animal census showed the following commercial poultry numbers in Germany:

- 38,956 laying hens,
- 54,611 broilers
- 10,604 turkey
- 2,626 ducks
- 384 geese

In 2004, Germany produced a total of 1.02 million MT poultry meat at a value of U.S.\$ 1.39 million (1.16 million Euro), and 803,000 MT eggs at a value of U.S.\$ 715,440 (596,000 Euro).